

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An ~~appliance housing, in particular an electrical appliance housing, with~~ comprising:
a hard plastic housing body (2) made from hard plastic, in which provision is made for an
defining a mechanism-activation aperture (4) to actuate a switch or the like in the interior of the
housing body (2); ;
said aperture (4) being sealed by means of a soft plastic membrane (9) of soft plastic,
configured to seal the aperture;
a hard plastic base bonded to the membrane; and
~~and further provision is made for an actuating button (12) on or in~~ associated with the
membrane (9) ~~for actuating the switch, characterized in that~~ wherein the actuating button (12) is
fastened to a the hard plastic base (6) of hard plastics material that is bonded to the material of
~~the membrane (9).~~
2. (Currently Amended) The electrical appliance housing ~~according to the preceding of~~
claim 1, wherein ~~the base (6) is connected by means of at least one elastic bar (5)~~ secures the base
to the housing body (2), ~~being in particular molded integrally with the housing body (2).~~
3. (Currently Amended) The electrical appliance housing ~~according to any one of the~~
~~preceding claims of claim 1,~~ wherein the base (6) is ~~constructed free of through-holes and/or is~~
~~not penetrated by the actuating button (12).~~

4. (Currently Amended) The electrical appliance housing ~~according to any one of the preceding claims of claim 1~~, wherein ~~on an end face of the base (6) facing the outer side (11) of the appliance housing provision is made in the membrane (9) for~~ defines a recess (21), with at least an outer side of the base (6) preferably penetrating the membrane (9) from its outer side (11) to its inner side (7) through the recess.

5. (Currently Amended) The electrical appliance housing ~~according to any one of the preceding claims of claim 2~~, wherein the at least one elastic bar (5) lies on an inner side (7) of the membrane (9).

6. (Currently Amended) The electrical appliance housing ~~according to any one of the preceding claims of claim 1~~, wherein the actuating button (12) protrudes beyond the membrane (9) towards the housing an outer side (11) of the electrical appliance housing.

7. (Currently Amended) The electrical appliance housing ~~according to any one of the preceding claims of claim 1~~, wherein the actuating button (12) and the base (6) are joined together.

8. (Currently Amended) The electrical appliance housing ~~according to any one of the preceding claims of claim 1~~, wherein the base (6) ~~has~~ defines a blind-end bore (19) ~~receiving configured to receive a shaft-shaped neck (17) of the actuating button (12), said neck (17) having preferably at least one radial rib (18) and/or at least one bead (22).~~

9. (Currently Amended) The electrical appliance housing ~~according to any one of the preceding claims of claim 7~~, wherein the actuating button (12) exhibits material homogeneity with the base (6), and the actuating button is integrally molded onto the base in one integral piece.

10. (Currently Amended) The electrical appliance housing according to ~~any one of the preceding claims of claim 1~~, wherein the membrane (9) ~~has~~ comprises an edge section that encloses the base (6) and projects beyond the base (6) towards the an outer side (11) of the electrical appliance housing ~~and which abuts with a precise fit or with a press-fit against an edge section of the actuating button (12)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The electrical appliance housing according to ~~the preceding claim of claim 10~~, wherein the edge section of the membrane (9) ~~forms~~ comprises an annular ~~elevation (10) projection, the annular projection which with its comprising an~~ end face engages configured to engage an underside of the actuating button ~~(12)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The electrical appliance housing according to ~~any one of the preceding claims of claim 10~~, wherein the edge section of the membrane forms a boundary for a recess (21) that axially adjoins the base (6) ~~axially and into which is configured to receive a~~ section of the actuating button (12) ~~is inserted, said recess (21) and said section of the actuating button (12) being preferably shaped in a conical configuration and/or said recess (21) having a smaller cone angle than the cooperating section of the actuating button (12)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The electrical appliance housing according to ~~any one of the preceding claims of claim 1~~, wherein the base (6) ~~has~~ comprises ~~on the inner side (7) a radial projection extending toward its inner side portion, preferably a circumferential shoulder (8)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The electrical appliance housing according to ~~any one of the preceding claims of claim 1~~, wherein the housing body (2) ~~is made of hard plastics material which is bonded to the soft plastics material of the membrane (9), in particular injection molded by the two-component injection molding method.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The electrical appliance housing ~~according to any one of the preceding claims of claim 1~~, wherein at least one protruding membrane support member (23) is fastened, ~~preferably integrally molded onto~~ to the base (6) ~~and/or the at least one elastic bar (5)~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The electrical appliance housing ~~according to any one of the preceding claims of claim 2~~, wherein said the at least one elastic bar (5) is shaped in an arcuate or undulating configuration.

17. (New) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein the base is free from penetration by the actuating button.

18. (New) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein the actuating button is positioned on the membrane.

19. (New) The electrical appliance housing of claim 1, wherein the actuating button is positioned in the membrane.

20. (New) The electrical appliance housing of claim 2, wherein the at least one elastic bar is integrally molded with the housing body.

21. (New) The electrical appliance housing of claim 2, wherein at least one protruding membrane support member is fastened to the at least one elastic bar.

22. (New) The electrical appliance housing of claim 8, wherein the neck comprises at least one radial rib.

23. (New) The electrical appliance housing of claim 8, wherein the neck comprises at least one radial bead.

24. (New) The electrical appliance housing of claim 10, wherein the edge section of the membrane abuts against an edge section of the actuating button with a press-fit.

25. (New) The electrical appliance housing of claim 12, wherein the recess and the section of the actuating button are shaped in a conical configuration.

26. (New) The electrical appliance housing of claim 25, wherein the recess has a cone angle that is smaller than a cone angle of a cooperating section of the actuating button.

27. (New) The electrical appliance housing of claim 13, wherein the radial projection comprises a circumferential shoulder.

28. (New) The electrical appliance housing of claim 14, wherein the housing body and the membrane are injection molded using a two-component injection-molding method.

29. (New) An electrical appliance housing, comprising:
a housing body defining a switch-activation aperture;
a rigid base positioned within the switch-activation aperture;
a flexible membrane extending across the aperture and cooperating with the housing body and the base to seal the aperture in a substantially liquid-tight manner, with the base exposed on an inner side of the membrane; and
a manually manipulable actuating button secured to the base and exposed on an outer side of the membrane, such that manual manipulation of the button resiliently flexes the membrane and moves the base.